

GRAPE VINE

New antique store

A "new" antique store will open at the corner of Mill and Main Streets this Saturday (March 23). Deja Vu Antiques and Collectibles is owned by Stan Preston and partner Mary Sheckley. Stan is no stranger to the business, having operated Avendale Antiques in Toronto for 35 years.

"I closed that shop, but I just didn't want to retire yet," says Stan, who now lives in Oustic with his daughter who owns Rainbarrel Antiques.

Stan and Mary are always looking to buy furniture, especially pine, and any kind of antiques. They can be reached at 853-4398 and although store hours haven't been set yet, are generally in from 9 am to 6 pm.

Spring into fitness

The YMCA is offering a spring session of fitness classes beginning the week of March 25 and running for 10 weeks.

Daytime classes run from 9 to 10 am at St. Alban's Church on Tuesdays and Fridays and babysitting is available. In the evenings, classes are held at McKenzie-Smith Bennett Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 8 pm.

Cost for one class per week is \$46, \$75 for two classes and \$100 for three classes, as well as \$1.25 per child for daytime babysitting. Registration can be done in person

on the first day of classes or call the YMCA at 1-800-265-2689.

Tanner gets facelift

The *Tanner* you're reading now has a new look over the one you saw last week. For most pages, we've gone with a six-column format, rather than our previous five-column look. We've also made the regular type size slightly smaller.

While it may not seem obvious, what it means is we now have extra space on our pages for more community news, photos and advertisements—a way of giving our readers more for their 60 cents.

Survival kit working

Marie Vickery at the Acton Public Library says the "100 Hours of Fun" March Break survival kits have been a big hit for parents and youngsters alike this year.

"We planned for 100 kits to be made up before the break," Marie said on Friday. "We've given out 160 so far—we're making them as fast as we can."

The kits come with craft items, magic tricks, songs and book lists. It's a trial year for the kits, which have replaced the in-house programs normally offered at the library for March Break. Marie said she feels they've been able to reach more children through the kits.

Halton Music Showcase

Robert Little and Acton High students will represent their schools at the seventh annual Halton Music Showcase, to be held April 17 at Hamilton Place in Hamilton. The evening begins at 7:30 pm and features the sounds of music performed by Halton Board of Education students.



PUPPETS AND MORE PUPPETS: These Grade 4 and 5 Robert Little students performed puppet plays recently as part of the Artists in Education program sponsored by the Ontario Arts Council. Each student made their own puppet or mask. Front row, from left: Roy Carter, Kathleen Kerr, Tim Pembleton, Amanda Neilsen, Jennifer Harrison, Shane Wall and Micheal Crook. Middle row: Billy Emans and Ashleigh Clarke. Back row: Kyle Winters, Ryan Plowman, Chris Grant, Chrystal Hicks, Matthew Grierson, Troy Ethier and Alana Reid. (Doug Harrison photo)

No real answers to tragedy

I'll wager every parent hugged their children a little tighter last week. The slaughter of the innocents in Dunblane, Scotland shocked the world. Even here in faraway Canada, people are concerned. Could the same thing happen here? It could, of course, but if we start worrying about the possibilities, we'll all go mad.

Sociologists will try to figure out how someone's demons would drive them to such an unimaginable act. We'll never have an answer. Not one that will make any sense to the majority of human kind.

Amongst my friends, the question after "Why?" was, "How can we ensure this never happens again?" Obviously we can't turn our schools or daycares into armed camps. It might be a good idea though, to lock access doors and install buzzers to have some control over who gets into our schools. I would think that for the rest of this school year, such actions might be prudent. In case there are any copy-cat wackos out there.

It would be easy to say that we have to be vigilant against any deranged people in our midst. But the parents and the police knew about this guy. Parents did take the precaution of keeping their children, especially young boys, away from him.

The police couldn't charge him because there was only suspicion, not proof, of any wrong doing. What else could they have done?

Many in this country are asking "How could this person have gotten a permit for these weapons?" England has tougher gun laws than we have. Although I personally have reservations about anyone having automatic or semi-automatic weapons, the police need a reason to turn down an applicant who meets the requirements under the law. If they had turned him down because of a rumour of perversions with young boys, the civil rights brigades would have been all over the cops.

So, what do responsible citizens do? Do we ban all guns? If I thought such an action would negate the possibility of another Dunblane, I would demand such a law right now. I just don't think that anyone demented enough to formulate, let alone carry out, such an evil act

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



would hesitate to acquire illegal weapons. Or, they would simply find another method to carry out their carnage.

I do think though, that no one in this country except the police and military, should have any automatic weapon—either rifle or handgun. If you want to target shoot or hunt, that's fine. Automatic weapons are another matter altogether, and they should be completely banned.

I hope the Royals, the politicians and the media leave Dunblane and its people to mourn in peace. As I write this, the class picture showing the dead is on my desk. I have many such pictures tucked away in a drawer. Most of us do. What this man did is the most horrendous act I can think of over my lifetime. Like you, I can't believe it really happened. But it did.

In a world where some bomb busses and others bomb buildings, not caring who they kill, we're damn lucky to live in Canada. We have to look out for each other though, and for the children. So let's make a deal—you keep an eye on my kids, and I'll watch out for yours. And let's all pray God that nothing like this happens in our country, or any country, ever again.

A note on a bouquet from Saudi Arabia, delivered to the cathedral in Dunblane, probably said it best: "We are sorry... From the human race."

It looks as though the Toronto police are going to be roasted again

over a shooting last week. During a foot chase, the suspect pointed a gun at the officer, the cop shot the man who later died of his wounds. A tragedy for all involved.

The reason for the furor is a report that the suspect was shot in the back or in the side. I don't see why the location of his wounds is such a consideration.

Did the guy have a gun and did he point it at the cop? If yes, he's a victim of his own making. I mean, no one is suggesting that this cop popped out from behind a hedge and pumped four rounds into a citizen out for a stroll. When a fleeing suspect points a gun at a cop, do we expect the police not to fire until they have a clear chest shot?

What if the officer had not fired and the suspect had blasted away and hit some innocent bystander? This incident happened in a densely populated area after all. I'm afraid that those who think the police should shoot for an arm or a leg are watching too much TV.

Regular readers will know that I'm basically a law and order guy. I don't propose that the police should be out there blasting away—and they're not. But if you pull a gun on a cop and get shot in return, isn't it your own fault?

The activists are out crying racism again. Do they honestly expect the police to hold their fire because the guy on the other end of the gun has a different colour skin? Not in this lifetime.

The problem is not where this man was shot. The problem is why he was carrying an illegal weapon in the first place, and where did it come from? Pointing a gun at our police is, and should be, a pretty risky venture.

I value all life. I'm truly sorry this man is dead. I'm relieved the policeman is not. No one celebrates a tragedy.

HEY! What have you been doing on the March Break?



My cousin came over for the whole week. We went skating, swimming, bowling and sledding. We also rented *Child's Play*. Alicja Wictor, Grade 7, St. Joseph's

I've been playing Lego with my friend Mike. Me and my mom went to my mom's friend's house and they fixed up a bike for me. My aunt came over with my two cousins.

Corey Slater, Grade 4, Robert Little



All I'm doing is going to my aunt's house. I also went swimming at the indoor pool, rode my bike with my friend and played video games.

April Fendley, Grade 5, McKenzie-Smith Bennett

I'm visiting my dad who lives in Acton. I went to see *Muppets Treasure Island* and *Homeward Bound 2*. We also went in our hot tub, made a snow fort and went skating.

Matthew Archibald, Grade 4, Barrie, Ont.



Same time last year ...

Acton Citizens' Band affiliates with the Town's Recreation and Parks department, waiving property taxes for the Band Hall ... Bronwyn Marshall is ranked third in Ontario in the ladies' Junior silver level of figure skating ... Town Council bans all future estate subdivisions in rural areas.